

00009-22 - Key Points on Impacts to Critical Infrastructure, Demonstrations Across Canada - 15 Feb 2022 17:00 EST

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Sent on behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG GOC

Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 17:00 EST, 15 Feb. Please ensure proper distribution of the KPs to officials with need-to-know.

BLUF

- Peter Sloly has resigned as Ottawa's police chief on 15 Feb. His resignation was publicly announced during a meeting of the Ottawa Police Services Board.
- Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino stated that an integrated command centre has been set up in Ottawa so the RCMP and OPP can share and assume command over the enforcement necessary to bring about public order in Ottawa. [Link](#)
- As of 15 Feb, the Pacific Hwy POE is open.
- Operations have resumed at the [Coutts](#) port of entry. The way leading to the POE has been cleared; vehicles are no longer blocking the road. [Link](#)
- Remaining protesters in Emerson expected to leave by the afternoon of 16 Feb.
- As per ITAC: Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
- For information on [planned traffic routes, road closures and location of other demonstrations nationally](#).

IMPACTED AREAS: (Details on Demonstrations in affected cities/regions)

Ottawa, ON:

- **Peter Sloly has resigned as Ottawa's police chief. His resignation was publicly announced during a meeting of the Ottawa Police Services Board. [Link](#)**
- **In the wake of the Ottawa police chief's resignation, three levels of policing have come together to jointly run the response to the protests, now in their third week, in the capital.**
- **Deputy Chief Steve Bell has been appointed the interim police chief and will work alongside the RCMP and the Ontario Provincial Police as part of the policing command centre coordinating response. [Link](#)**
- **Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino says an integrated command centre has been set up so the RCMP and OPP can share and assume command over the enforcement necessary to bring about public order in Ottawa.**
- **The Minister went on to say that the federal government's focus is ensuring the Ottawa police, as well as the RCMP and OPP, have all the tools necessary to restore public order in the city [Link](#)**
- Approx. 20 people on Parliament Hill and approx. 100 on the surrounding streets. Police liaison teams continue to negotiate with the demonstrators to determine who will be moving their vehicles (as of **10:00 EST** 15 Feb).
 - o Some protest trucks moving from Ottawa's residential areas, others staying put. [Link](#)
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill until 28 Feb.

Windsor, ON:

- The Ambassador Bridge and POE has reopened to commercial and traveller traffic. As of 15 Feb, no delays are reported by CBSA.
 - o Ambassador Bridge blockade stalled billions in trade. [Link](#)

Sarnia, ON:

- As of 15 Feb, the Blue Water Bridge remains open in both directions. Sarnia POE remains open with no delays reported.
 - o Solidarity convoy leaves Hwy 402 east of Sarnia: Lambton OPP. [Link](#)

Fort Erie, ON:

- As of 15 Feb, Fort Erie POE remains open for commercial and traveller flow, with no delays reported by CBSA.

Emerson POE:

- **Manitoba RCMP is coordinating the departure of the remaining demonstrators and expects that this will be completed by the afternoon of 16 Feb.**
- As of 15 Feb, the blockade remains north of the POE. Some traveller traffic is able to enter Canada but commercial and other traffic is rerouted to adjacent POEs. RCMP will continue letting livestock vehicles through.
 - o Border protest needs to end but *Emergencies Act* not wanted in Manitoba: Premier Stefanson. [Link](#)
- NOTAM over Emerson has been extended until 21 Feb.

Coutts POE:

- **Operations have resumed at the Coutts port of entry. The way leading to the POE has been cleared; vehicles are no longer blocking the road.** [Link](#)
- NOTAMs over Coutts and Milk River have been modified and extended until 23 Feb.

Pacific Highway Port of Entry:

- **As of 15 Feb, the Pacific Hwy POE is open.**
- A convoy from Chilliwack, BC is expected to join protesters at the demonstration site on 15 Feb.
 - o Police, protesters continue to face off at BC border crossing with concrete barriers in place. [Link](#)

Lacolle, QC POE:

- **There have been discussions regarding a potential demonstration at the border crossing at Lacolle, QC.** (Source: [Journal de Montréal](#))

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

IMVE:

- **As per ITAC:**
 - o Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
 - o The most likely IMVE-related scenario involves an individual or small group using readily available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and

vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the general public.

- The increase in violent online rhetoric targeting uniformed personnel is likely not indicative of increased intent by IMVE actors to conduct planned, directed attacks against members of law enforcement. Uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted because of their accessibility in the course of their duties. The terrorism threat to uniformed personnel remains MEDIUM.
- IMVE adherents may feel empowered by the level of disorder resulting from the protests. This could lead to individuals vulnerable to extremist messaging to commit isolated acts of violence.

International:

- COVID convoy at NZ Parliament: Police Commissioner warns protest 'no longer tenable' as sit-in enters second week. [Link](#)
- Canadian-style trucker protests not gaining momentum in US so far. [Link](#)

Maritime/CCG:

- No indication of any activity, planned or otherwise, is being reported by CCG.
 - Although the Mariners for Freedom Facebook page continues to attract attention, there are no plans or discussions around marine-based protests.
 - There are currently no disruptions at international border crossings in the Great Lakes region; the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie ON, was the last major crossing to fully re-open at 11:00 EST on 14 Feb after police cleared 70 protestors who were blocking traffic on the adjacent Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) highway.

Foreign Interference:

- s.38 
- Prominent discussions online have shifted to include a focus on the emergency measures, while overlapping with those related to the "truckers convoy". There are some indications of international networks (e.g., those aligned with the s.38 and s.38 governments) engaging in this discussion as well, including claiming Canadian hypocrisy, but at low levels compared to overall activity.
- Discussions around the hacked funding website GiveSendGo have continued, particularly as more information about donors is exposed, including increasing evidence of a majority of donors coming from the US, including some with US government email addresses.
- A significant portion of engagement and activity continues to come from US online communities, driven by key US influencers, alternative media and political actors. Given the transnational nature of this discussion, it is difficult to determine exact metrics, but analysis indicates a clear

interest among various US communities, including those sympathising with protesters, conspiracy-minded groups, and ideologically motivated networks.

Financing:

- FINTRAC is working closely with businesses and its Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing Regime partners to implement the new requirements that were announced by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on February 14.
- Crowdfunding sites are not a regulated business sector under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA). However, should these sites transact with or through [businesses](#) that are subject to the Act, such as financial institutions, suspicious transactions may be reported.
- Feds go after blockade financing with expanded FINTRAC powers, directions to banks. [Link](#)
- Who's funding the 'Freedom Convoy'? What leaked data suggests about GiveSendGo donors. [Link](#)

Policing Issues of Note:

- RCMP is assisting in various impacted areas across the country and is focused on areas where enforcement or the risk of escalation is most acute. RCMP does not hold contracts with tow companies.

CSISs.38

- No concerns at this time.

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS:

- Radio Canada tweeted a photo of the road leading to the Coutts border crossing on 15 Feb, which is mostly clear. Remaining trucks are not blocking traffic. *(see photo in link)*. [Link](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: (Derived from information available on open sources)

- The majority of the events have been peaceful.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations in Ottawa.

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